

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Pullman Regional Hospital and the medical community in general. I strongly urge you to immediately establish a moratorium on any marijuana growing and processing facilities being established in Whitman County. Further, I implore you to develop clear and substantive rules and regulations that address the needs of all citizens of the county and not just the special interests of a few, non-resident business developers. Responsible government is duty bound to consider the needs of all parties and not a select few.

With Whitman County holding the dubious distinction of nearly open access to the establishment of marijuana growing and processing facilities, the concerns and fears of residents are real. Established rules and safety guidelines have already been developed by other counties and they are available for your consideration. Spokane offers a nearby example <https://www.spokanecleanair.org/business/air-quality-and-marijuana-production-processing>. I plead with you to give attention to the concerns of residents and citizens throughout the county.

Finally, an aspect that may not have come to your attention, but carries real threats for the future, is our ability as a community to continue to attract and develop medical services to meet the needs of our citizens. The establishment of these facilities and the expected negative impact on crime rates, housing values, air quality, and community environment will make an already challenging dynamic nearly impossible. I am specifically referring to the recruitment and retention of quality physicians to serve our communities. While Pullman and Whitman County have many advantages over other small, rural communities, the challenges go beyond the rurality we all enjoy. Increasing shortages of physicians amidst escalating demand for services places at a distinct disadvantage to compete for quality providers.

With local limitations on access to services in primary care specialties and mental health providers already at perilous levels, deliberately placing additional barriers to our recruiting success will have detrimental impacts on the overall health of our population for decades to come. Your serious attention to these aspects of your decision, and your courageous commitment to place an immediate moratorium on marijuana growing and processing facilities until thoughtful, clear, and substantive regulations can be developed and enforced, will be the highest example of effective leadership we could ask for. I thank you in advance for your deliberate and sincere efforts to understand and address the needs and interests of all segments of our county.

Sincerely,



Scott K. Adams

Chief Executive Officer

Pullman Regional Hospital

